

Routine Use #30

VHA Homeless Programs

This guidance provides information pertaining to the addition of Routine Use #30 to the Federal Register Privacy Act Systems of Records Notice, which provides legal authority to disclose Veteran information **without a formal data sharing agreement or prior signed, written authorization** or Veterans assessed by or engaged with VA Homeless Programs.

[Federal Register: Privacy Act Systems of Records Notice \(SORN\)](#)

[Operational Planning Hub](#)

ROUTINE USE #30 OVERVIEW

Routine Use #30 states that VA may disclose relevant health care and demographic information to health and welfare agencies, housing resources, and community providers, consistent with good medical-ethical practices, for Veterans assessed by or engaged in VA Homeless Programs for purposes of:

1. Coordinating care;
2. Expediting access to housing;
3. Providing medical and related services;
4. Participating in coordinated entry processes;
5. Reducing Veteran homelessness;
6. Identifying homeless individuals in need of immediate assistance; and
7. Ensuring program accountability by assigning and tracking responsibility for urgently required care.

This routine use provides legal authority for VHA Homeless Program staff to disclose pertinent Veteran information, excluding 38 U.S.C. 7332-protected information, **without a formal data sharing agreement or prior signed, written authorization** from the Veteran **if** the requirements of the legal authority are followed.

All disclosures must be recorded locally in accordance with privacy guidelines.

VHA does NOT have legal authority to share health information protected under 38 U.S.C 7332 (any information related to the diagnosis of infection with HIV or sickle cell anemia, or the diagnosis of and treatment for drug abuse, alcohol abuse or alcoholism) with community partners UNLESS a signed, written authorization is obtained from the Veteran. If a Veteran is being treated for, or has any of these diagnoses, this information or any information that would imply these diagnoses cannot be shared without the Veteran's signed authorization, including information such as, the name of a residential treatment facility that would infer the Veteran is being treated for substance abuse.

This legal authority supports effective and efficient collaboration between VA and outside agencies by allowing disclosure of information documented in the Homeless Operations Management and Evaluation System (HOMES) for the purpose of improving timeliness and access to necessary services for Veterans in the homeless continuum.

Specific privacy questions should be directed to your local privacy office.